

Events & Announcements

Community Calendar 2015

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Portland Metro

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE: Do you miss the traditional Christmas Eve Service you grew up with? Renew your Christmas spirit this year. Join us at 2 p.m. in the afternoon for a candle light service full of music, faith and fellowship. Sanctuary Presbyterian Church, 5512 SE. 73rd Ave.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM THE SKANNER NEWSPAPER!!

POTLUCK IN THE PARK: 22nd ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER AT PORTLAND ART MUSEUM. Potluck in the Park is excited to announce that we will be once again holding our annual free Christmas dinner at the Portland Art Museum. Our meal will be served from noon until 3 p.m. Volunteers are also needed.

SUNDAY - THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27 - 31

WHALE WATCHING WEEK SET ON THE OREGON COAST. Visitors to the Oregon Coast are invited to watch migrating whales with trained volunteers during the annual winter Whale Watching Week. Volunteers will be stationed at 24 roadside sites from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. along the Oregon Coast lookout spots.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 28

PORTLAND WOMEN'S FILM FESTIVAL: POW FEST: Special screening of 'Young Lakota,' a sensitive portrayal of young people finding their way on South Dakota's Pine Ridge Reservation. Panel discussion to follow. Tickets on a sliding scale of \$5 - \$10 at the door. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. No one turned away due to lack of funds. Show starts at 7 p.m. Clinton Street Theater, 2522 SE Clinton St.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 3

IGBO MASQUERADE AT MIDLAND LIBRARY: Nzuko Ndi: Igbo is the premier cultural organization of the Igbo people of Nigeria living in Oregon and SW Washington. This masquerade showcases their drumming, flute playing and dancing abilities. Free for all. 2 p.m., Midland Library, 805 SE 122nd Ave.

Seattle

THURS. - SAT., DECEMBER 24 - JANUARY 2

THE LIGHTS ARE BRIGHTER THAN EVER: Garden d' Lights features over half a million lights which transform the Bellevue Botanical Garden into a blossoming winter wonderland. Admission is \$5.00! The garden opens up at 4:30 p.m. until 9 p.m. Bellevue Botanical Garden, 12001 Main St., Bellevue.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24

CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY SERVICE & CHILDREN'S PAGENT: All are welcome. Sing carols, remember the meaning of Christmas, and share in Christmas communion. St. Andrews Episcopal Church, 7410 S. 12th St., Tacoma. Service starts at 4 p.m.!

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM THE SKANNER NEWSPAPER!!

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26

MAKER-MARKET: Visitors can see the Angyaaq, make paddle and boat ornaments, and purchase unique gifts like a limited-edition Seahawks shirt made by native artist Jeffrey Veregge. Cost is included with admission to museum. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., University of Washington - Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture, 17th Ave. NE and NE 45th St.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30

WINTER BREAK MOVIE: Everyone is welcome to join us for a free showing of Disney's Pixar's 'Inside Out.' Popcorn will be provided! 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. Greenwood Library, 8016 Greenwood Ave. N.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 1

33RD ANNUAL POLAR BEAR PLUNGE: There is no charge to take the plunge, but registration is encouraged. Come join hundreds of people from all over the Pacific Northwest to be part of this annual tradition. 9:30 a.m., Birch Bay Waterfront, near 7900 Birch Bay Drive).



PHOTO BY SUSAN FRIED

Love Thy Neighbor

The Columbia City community gathered at the corner of Rainier South and South Ferdinand Street Dec. 20 to show support for their Muslim neighbors.

Portland News Briefs

County Seeks Storm Property Damage Reports for Federal Aid

Multnomah County is seeking reports from county residents and businesses that experienced property damage from the storm that hit the county Dec. 7-9. Oregon counties are totaling up property damage reports from the storm to determine the state's eligibility to request a presidential disaster declaration that could make local governments and individuals eligible for federal assistance.

Multnomah County residents and businesses may file reports online at www.multco.us/em (click "December 2015 Storm Damage Reporting"). A simple questionnaire collects contact information, damage type and cost estimate, type of insurance coverage, and building type. Reports need to be submitted online by Dec. 27.

Individuals should keep photos, repair receipts and other documents related to property damage. These will be helpful if federal funding becomes available to individuals.

For more information, visit Multnomah County Emergency Management's website at www.multco.us/em or call (503) 988-6700.

Pet Adoption Scams Resurface During Holidays

Business Bureau serving Alaska, Oregon and Western Washington says pet adoption scams surge this time of year, leaving families brokenhearted during the holidays.

Often the scam starts with an online ad with a picture of a puppy or kitten in search of a new home. Watch for the following red flags:

- Poor grammar and misspellings. Many pet scams originate overseas, so scammers may not have a good grasp of the English language.
- Wiring money. Once the transaction is complete, it is next to impossible to get money back.
- Too good to be true deals. Be wary of any ads offering exotic or rare breeds for low prices or for free.
- Pay for transport. Be wary of pet sellers requesting upfront shipping costs for a third-party transport company.
- Communication. Steer clear of sellers that will only communicate by email or text, but not by phone.
- Immediacy. Emails from pet scammers often indicate that funds must be sent immediately if the pet is to make the flight departure time.

Consider adopting pets locally in order to see the animal before acquiring. Check contact information for companies at bbb.org to be sure that the name, phone numbers and addresses match.

Seattle News Briefs

Metro Transit, Water Taxi have Holiday Schedules, Reduced Service

King County Metro Transit reminds riders to review schedules for their routes as buses will operate on Sunday and reduced weekday service over the coming holiday weeks. The King County Water Taxi also has schedule changes on holidays.

Details are posted on Metro's holiday and reduced service page. Under a Community Mobility Contract created by County Executive Constantine and funded by voter-approved Prop 1, regular bus service will be provided on about three dozen routes within the City of Seattle that were previously reduced during holiday periods.

Metro offices, including the Customer Information center, the Lost and Found and Pass Sales counters, will be closed on Dec. 25 and Jan. 1.

The Customer Information center at (206) 553-3000 will reopen on the Monday morning following each holiday.

An overview of all Metro holiday service is online. Visit Metro Online at www.metro.kingcounty.gov for more transit information, or call the Customer Information Office at (206) 553-3000.

Washington DFI: Beware of Advance Fee Lending Scams

The Washington State Department of Financial Institutions (DFI) warns consumers to check that any lender they consider doing business with is licensed by Washington State to make consumer or payday loans.

Advanced fee scammers pose as lenders. They tell you that they can't fund your loan until you pay an upfront fee.

You pay the fee and the loan never comes. They may contact you by email, text message, or phone. You may even contact them by applying for a loan from an unlicensed company.

These scammers have one thing in common: They will ask you to pay before they give you the loan.

Often they will instruct you to wire money or buy a pre-paid card and call them with the card number. They may even ask you to do this several times, each time with an excuse about why they need more money up front. Common excuses include wire fees, insurance, taxes, collateral, and proof of ability to repay.

Consumers can determine whether lenders are properly licensed using the "Verify a License" feature on the DFI's website at www.dfi.wa.gov/consumers/findcompany.htm.

If you are suspicious of unlicensed activity by a lender, please contact the Department at 1-877-RING-DFI (746-4334), or online at www.dfi.wa.gov.